

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA
2007-2008 Grant Cycle**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
September 2007**

For the past few years, some EEMP applicants have submitted proposals that didn't pass the initial "meet minimum qualifications" screen. There are three fairly common defects that cause applications to be disqualified from further consideration:

- The "related transportation project" does not appear to have caused any negative environmental impacts either directly or cumulatively as a result of several small staged projects each of which received a Categorical Exemption or a Negative Declaration. The Frequently Asked Questions part of the Procedures and Criteria specifically address this issue. See questions 4, 5.
- The "related transportation project" is a planning project that, in and of itself, caused no negative environmental impacts. It is future projects based on the plan that cause the environmental impacts. Each of them could qualify as a related transportation project for EEMP purposes.
- The proposed EEM project is not a real, on-the-ground, project resulting in tangible results. These projects may be wonderfully useful and innovative; they just don't qualify as an environmental enhancement or mitigation. Recent examples of these kinds of projects include developing a field guide for native California plants and their habitats so that agencies can select suitable native plants for their projects, developing a GIS system to track on-the-ground changes useful for environmental analysis.

The first kind of defect listed above presents difficult issues for applicants and evaluators alike. Applicants may know very well that the proposed related transportation project has caused significant, negative environmental impacts even though it received a negative declaration or categorical exemption. So, the application arrives without fully explaining the cumulative or late-occurring negative impacts and how the related transportation project caused them. The evaluators may really like the proposed EEM project but have to disqualify it because there is insufficient information in the application to get it past the initial screening. It is the responsibility of the EEMP grant application writers to explain their projects fully and clearly and argue convincingly that it meets EEMP qualifying criteria.